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# Avian/Pandemic Flu Newsletter

THE OFFICIAL AVIAN INFLUENZA NEWSLETTER OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

**Volume III, Issue 1**

**January 16, 2008**

## AVIAN INFLUENZA: Current Global Situation Update

### Avian Influenza Cases in Humans

Since January 2004, the World Health Organization (WHO) has reported human cases of Avian Influenza A/ (H5N1) in more than twelve countries like Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, Azerbaijan, Turkey, Egypt, Djibouti, Iraq, Lao People's Democratic Republic, and Nigeria.

### Cumulative Number of Confirmed Human Cases of Avian Influenza (H5N1)

Cases reported to WHO through January 11, 2008. WHO only reports laboratory-confirmed cases.

- ◆ Total human cases of H5N1 (confirmed) = **349**
- ◆ Total human deaths from H5N1= **217**

[http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian\\_influenza/country/cases\\_table\\_2008\\_01\\_03/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/country/cases_table_2008_01_03/en/index.html)

**Currently, there are no reported human OR animal cases of the highly pathogenic Avian Influenza (H5N1) in United States.**

### Beijing, China - January 10, 2007

On Thursday, Health authorities confirmed that the latest human case of bird flu in the eastern province of Jiangsu, who involved a 52-year-old father, came from close contact with his infected son and not a viral mutation.

<http://www.thepoultrysite.com/poultrynews/13800/bird-flu-begins-spreading-from-person-to-person/print>

### World Health Organization (WHO)

#### Egypt - January 3, 2008

The Ministry announced two new cases of human infection of H5N1 avian influenza. His announce came on January 2<sup>nd</sup>. Both women had contact with sick and dead poultry prior to illness onset.

*Of the 43 cases confirmed to date in Egypt, 19 have been fatal.*

[http://www.who.int/csr/don/2008\\_01\\_02/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/csr/don/2008_01_02/en/index.html)

#### Viet Nam - December 28, 2007

The Ministry of Health in has confirmed a new case of human infection of H5N1 avian influenza. The case has been confirmed by the National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology (NIHE). Control measures have been implemented and close contacts have been identified. All remain healthy and will continue to be monitored. The source of exposure is currently under investigation.

*Of the 101 cases confirmed to date in Vietnam, 47 have been fatal.*

[http://www.who.int/csr/don/2007\\_12\\_28/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/csr/don/2007_12_28/en/index.html)

#### Pakistan - December 27, 2007

The first case of human infection with H5N1 avian influenza has been confirmed in Pakistan. Laboratory tests conducted by the WHO H5 Reference Laboratory in Cairo, Egypt and WHO Collaborating Center for Reference and Research on Influenza, in London, United Kingdom have confirmed the presence of avian influenza virus strain A (H5N1) in samples collected from one case in an affected family. Additional laboratory analysis, including gene sequencing, is ongoing.

[http://www.who.int/csr/don/2007\\_12\\_27/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/csr/don/2007_12_27/en/index.html)

## Avian Influenza Cases in Humans (Cont.)

**Indonesia - December 26, 2007**

The Ministry of Health has announced two new cases of human infection of H5N1 avian influenza. A 47-year-old male from Tangerang District in Banten Province died on December 13th.

*Of the 116 cases confirmed to date in Indonesia, 94 have been fatal.*

[http://www.who.int/csr/don/2007\\_12\\_26/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/csr/don/2007_12_26/en/index.html)

## Avian Influenza Cases in Birds

### [Iran Bans Hunting of Birds to Prevent Bird Flu Outbreak](#) - January 14, 2008

TEHRAN - Iran has banned bird hunting in its southwestern province to prevent the possible outbreak of the deadly H5N1 strain of bird flu, the official IRNA news agency said on Sunday.

### [Tests After Bird Flu Hits Swans](#) - January 11, 2008

UK - Tests are continuing on birds around Chesil Beach in Dorset, as vets try to contain the virulent form of bird flu found in swans at a sanctuary.

### [Vaccines Delivered to the Palestinian Authority](#)

**January 10, 2008**

ISRAEL - In light of the discovery of the Avian Influenza (bird flu) in Israel, the Civil Administration is preparing to provide assistance to aid in the early discovery of the virus in order to prevent the disease's spread in Judea and Samaria region.



<http://www.thepoultrysite.com/bird-flu/bird-flu-news.php>

## NATIONAL NEWS

### **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and Centers for Disease Control -**

Avian Flu Travel Information (Updated)

- o [New! Keep Bird Flu Out of the United](#)

[States](#) PDF (126 KB) Includes information about fines for smuggling birds into the United States. [Poster text in HTML](#).

- o [New! Brochure: Imports of Legal Birds](#)

[and Bird Products](#) PDF (346 KB / 12 pages) Color brochure about smuggling birds into the United States and protection of U.S. Agriculture

- o [Information for Travelers](#)

- o [Information for Airlines](#)

- o [Travel Health Notices](#)

- o [Pandemic Preparedness and Travel Information in Spanish](#)

For more information, please go to:

<http://www.cdc.gov/travel/contentAvianFluInformation.aspx>

### **United States Department of Agriculture - Agricultural Research Service (ARC) - December 19, 2007**

Researchers have identified a new strain of swine influenza—H2N3—which belongs to the group of H2 influenza viruses that last infected humans during

the 1957 pandemic. This new strain has a molecular twist: It is composed of avian and swine influenza genes.



H2N3 influenza virus

The research team studied an unknown pathogen that in 2006 infected two groups of pigs at separate production facilities. Both groups of pigs used water obtained from ponds frequented by migrating waterfowl. Molecular studies indicated the unknown pathogen was an H2N3 influenza virus that is closely related to an H2N3 strain found in mallard ducks. But this was the first time it had been observed in mammals.

Results of this study were published online this week in the [Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America](#).

ARS is the [U.S. Department of Agriculture](#)'s chief scientific research agency.

<http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/pr/2007/071219.htm>

A new version of swine flu (H2N3) has recently been reported in Midwest pigs, and scientists are investigating its links to strains of avian influenza.



## LOCAL AND STATE NEWS

### **Local News/ Outreach**

Activities related to Pandemic Influenza education in the regions continue with more than 142,256 educational material distributed to various community locations. In addition, a total of 141 presentations have been provided to staff and community residents. San Diego will soon begin trainings for its Ambassador Program, an education and outreach effort to train the general public, through businesses, schools and organizations, about how to prepare for an influenza pandemic.



### **State/ Federal News**

No new updates at this time.

## PANDEMIC/ AVIAN FLU IN THE MEDIA

### **Journal of Infection**

*January 2008* - Wild birds and especially migratory species can become long-distance vectors for a wide range of microorganisms. The objective of the current paper is to summarize available literature on pathogens causing human disease that have been associated with wild bird species.

<http://www.journalofinfection.com>

### **Emerging Infectious Disease - January 2008**

We examined feathers of domestic ducks and geese inoculated with 2 different avian influenza virus (H5N1) genotypes. Together with virus isolation from the skin, the detection of viral antigens and ultrastructural observation of the virions in the feather epidermis raise the possibility of feathers as sources of infection.



<http://www.cdc.gov/eid/content/14/1/149.htm>

### **IRIN - Humanitarian news and analysis UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs December 27, 2008**

Another human victim of bird flu - the 16th in Egypt - has been registered in the country, underlining the fact that the deadly H5N1 strain of avian flu, which was first detected in Egypt in February 2006, has not disappeared. <http://www.irinnews.org>

### **United Press International (UPI)**

*December 25, 2007*

A researcher in the Netherlands has created an avian flu vaccine in powder form. The powdered form of the drug could prove to be a great weapon against avian flu since it can be stored and transported at room temperature. Current liquid vaccines need to be refrigerated, making it harder to transport into poor and de-

vloping countries, Radio Netherlands reported Tuesday.

[http://www.upi.com/NewsTrack/Science/2007/12/25/bird\\_flu\\_vaccine\\_made\\_in\\_powder\\_form/4161/](http://www.upi.com/NewsTrack/Science/2007/12/25/bird_flu_vaccine_made_in_powder_form/4161/)

### **The News & Observer - December 20, 2007**

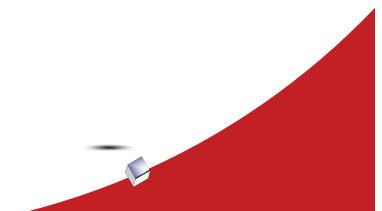
A mobile unit that could incinerate pathogens from bioterrorism, avian flu and mad cow disease has been developed by a Raleigh waste management company for the federal government. The device, which could be deployed quickly after natural disasters or disease outbreaks, destroys large volumes of animal carcasses or contaminated material to keep disease from spreading and protect human health.

BGP Inc., a private company, designed the prototype mobile unit under a \$2.1 million contract with a multi-agency federal team focused on homeland security. Because of recent outbreaks in other countries of Avian flu and mad cow disease, the federal government has given priority to developing rapid-response waste-disposal technology.

"They've asked us to help them prepare a response that is quick, flexible and safe for the environment," said David Robinson, president of BGP, which has manufactured smaller, stationary disposal units for medical waste, animal manure, and municipal sewage sludge.

The unit, which sits on a truck trailer, was displayed Wednesday at N.C. State University's Animal and Poultry Waste Management research farm in Raleigh. Researchers there provided technical input.

<http://www.newsobserver.com>



We're on the Web!  
[http://sdpandemicfacts.org/  
resources.htm#newsletters](http://sdpandemicfacts.org/resources.htm#newsletters)

## PANDEMIC/ AVIAN FLU IN THE MEDIA

The Canadian Press

January 7, 2008

American scientists may have figured out why avian influenza viruses such as H5N1 don't readily infect people - a finding which could be used in future to watch for bird viruses in the process of becoming a greater pandemic threat.

Influenza experts say the work may also provide clues to a couple of mysteries about the pattern of human H5N1 infections to date, namely whether some people are more genetically susceptible to the virus than others and why children seem to make up a disproportionate percentage of human cases.

<http://canadianpress.google.com/article/ALeqM5hsy-4r3ulBc0Seiy9XGyJJ7s059Q>

## RESOURCES

• County Vector

Control Program's (888) 551-INFO (4636) for info on how to protect birds, or to report dead birds.

- HHSA's Avian and Pandemic Flu Info Line (619) 515-6900 for info regarding avian and pandemic flu.
- Educational materials are available for public distribution and are also downloadable from the county website: [www.sdbirdflu.org](http://www.sdbirdflu.org) or [www.sdpandemicflu.org](http://www.sdpandemicflu.org). Click on "Pandemic Flu".
- National Geographic International Edition: [www.nationalgeographic.com](http://www.nationalgeographic.com)
- World Health Organization (WHO): [www.who.int](http://www.who.int)
- Federal Dept. of Health & Human Services: [www.pandemicflu.gov](http://www.pandemicflu.gov)
- Federal CDC site: [www.cdc.gov/flu/pandemic](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/pandemic)
- State of California: [www.dhs.ca.gov](http://www.dhs.ca.gov)
- County of San Diego: [www.sdbirdflu.org](http://www.sdbirdflu.org)
- The Poultry Site: [www.thepoultrysite.com](http://www.thepoultrysite.com)

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